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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP  
INTELLIGENCE REPORT

COUNTRY Greece

SUBJECT The New Greek Government

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ORIGIN 

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SUPPLEMENT

## SOURCE

1. The participation of Sophocles Venizelos, following heavy British pressure, in the new coalition government of 24 January 1947 had the ultimate secret approval of Sophoulis, who wanted to test the left-wing reaction to moderate conciliatory measures, including a limited amnesty which has already been proclaimed. Sophoulis also wanted to provide a sounder claim for a liberal government if hostilities continue as expected. This development occurred after the tactical failure of Venizelos and Kanellopoulos to force the appointment of Sophoulis as Premier, following the resignations of Gonatas and others and the formation of the Markezinis party on 16 January.
2. Demetrios Maximos accepted the Premiership only after British blessing.
3. The battle over the basic Ministries of War and Public Security continues. Venizelos resigned the War Ministry following a meeting with Lt. Gen. K.N. Crawford, chief of British Land Forces, because the latter opposed the reorganization of the army without the approval of the Greek General Staff and the British Command. George Stratos, a dissatisfied member of the Populist Party close to Markezinis, was then appointed Minister of War. The original appointment of Gen. Napoleon Zervas to the Ministry of Public Security was withdrawn because of bitter opposition from Venizelos and Kanellopoulos and also because of the intervention of King George. Kanellopoulos is temporarily holding this post, but it may go to Zervas, who is supported by Tsaldaris, if Zervas is willing to make a public statement that he will conform to the policy of the Cabinet Council. The post of Director General for Northern Epirus, as well as the Ministry of Communications and one Under-Ministry of Economics were allotted to Zervas, who has not accepted pending the final disposition of the Ministry of Public Security. Outward harmony has been preserved by Venizelos' acceptance of a Ministry without Portfolio, which is charged with coordinating the Ministries affecting Public Security.
4. Well-informed circles, including the right wing, believe that the life of the present government will be short.

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